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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 21

Administration of the Slaughter Licensing Program

Since the inauguration of the slaughter permit program early in 1943, it has become apparent that there is need for a more thorough-going system for controlling the flow of meat in distribution channels in order to fill military and civilian requirements. To meet this need an over-all system of licensing slaughterers will go into effect August 15.

The purpose of the licensing program is to call upon the meat processing industry to assume responsibility in carrying out the meat program necessary to the successful prosecution of the war. I believe it is more effective to lay out a general program and ask all the people affected to carry it out than attempt to do the whole job by direct regulation.

Authority and responsibility for the operation of the program is delegated to the Director of the Food Distribution Administration. He in turn is redelegating to the Regional Directors of FDA authority to direct the program in the field. However, it is recognized that the State and County War Boards have had long and valuable experience in working with farmers. In order to achieve effective operation of the slaughter program as it affects farmers, I am desirous that this experience be utilized to the maximum extent possible.

Therefore, in order to continue to utilize fully the valuable experience of the War Boards and at the same time achieve the single straight line operation which I believe is necessary if the program is to be successful, the following shifts in the operation of the program shall be made:

(1) State meat marketing supervisors shall report to and be under the administrative direction of the appropriate FDA Regional Director.

(2) Area meat supervisors shall report to and be under the direction of the appropriate FDA State meat marketing supervisor.

(3) Farm slaughterers shall continue to operate under the slaughter permit established by War Board Memorandum No. 375. Permits for farm slaughterers will be issued by County War Meat Committees as subcommittees of the County War Board, or by area supervisors in accordance with existing procedure. All slaughter permits or licenses are subject to review, revocation, or modification by Regional Directors or their representatives in order to achieve uniformity among States and Regions. All licensed slaughter will be administered by area, State, and Regional offices of the FDA. County and State War Boards may recommend to area, State, or Regional officials of the FDA any action they believe appropriate with respect to the issuance of licenses or the administration of the licensing system as a whole. The State FDA representative on the State War Board shall be responsible for obtaining the Board's policy recommendations on the permit and license system.

*Norman J. Lewis*  
Administrator